

U.S. Beet Sugar Industry

Dear Member of Congress:

The House is scheduled to consider H.R. 1599, the “Safe and Accurate Food Labeling Act of 2015,” on Thursday this week (July 23). The beet sugar industry strongly supports this important legislation and urges you to vote for the bill.

A broad spectrum of credible scientific organizations has agreed that genetically engineered (GE) crops and the products derived from them are as safe and healthy as conventional or organic crops. H.R. 1599 will assure consumers that FDA will continue to review every crop that comes to market.

With specific regard to sugar, there is no difference between the sugar produced from a genetically engineered sugar beet and conventional or organically-produced sugar, whether from cane or beet.

All sugar beet growers in the U.S. and Canada have embraced GE sugar beets and other crops because of consumer safety, numerous environmental benefits (less fuel usage, reduced greenhouse gases, soil and water conservation, friendlier crop protection products) and greater efficiency to achieve long-term competitiveness and sustainability.

H.R. 1599 will provide strong food safety rules and consistency in food labeling, and prevent a patchwork of inconsistent state labeling initiatives that both confuse consumers and disparage important and safe agricultural technology. For those companies that wish to label their products as “non-GMO,” H.R. 1599 provides for a national and uniform standard to do so.

We strongly urge you to support the passage of H.R. 1599.

Sincerely,

American Sugarbeet Growers Association

U.S. Beet Sugar Association

Beet Sugar Development Foundation

American Society of Sugarbeet Technologists